

JANUARY 28, 1845.

Read, and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. HOUSTON, on leave, introduced the following bill :

A BILL

To cede to the State of Alabama the public lands lying within the limits of said State, for purposes of education.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 all of the lands of the United States lying within the limits of
4 the State of Alabama, which shall remain unsold after the first
5 day of January, eighteen hundred and forty-six, be, and the same
6 are hereby, ceded to the State of Alabama, upon the following
7 terms and conditions:

8 First. The State of Alabama shall take charge of said lands
9 then remaining unsold, direct and control their management and
10 sale upon such terms, and under such rules and regulations as
11 said State, by her legislature, may adopt: *Provided*, That none
12 of said lands shall be sold otherwise than for cash, or for a less
13 price than twenty-five cents per acre.

14 Second. Out of the proceeds of the sales of said lands, the
15 said State shall first deduct the true amount of all expenses le-
16 gally incident thereto; the balance shall then be divided equally
17 between the United States and said State: the one-half to be paid

18 into the treasury of the United States on the first day of each
19 succeeding January thereafter; the other half of the net pro-
20 ceeds shall belong to the State of Alabama, to constitute a per-
21 manent school fund, the interest of which to be expended for
22 the support of common schools within said State, in such man-
23 ner as the legislature thereof may direct.

24 Third. The governor of said State shall cause to be made
25 out and returned to the Secretary of the Treasury on the first
26 day of January, eighteen hundred and forty-seven, and each suc-
27 ceeding January thereafter, a full report of all sales made by
28 said State, and the prices and money received therefor, together
29 with the entire amount of expenses incident to the same.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the officers of the
2 various land offices in the State of Alabama shall make out full
3 lists of sales and receipts, or sale sheets, exhibiting fully and
4 clearly all of the transactions of their offices up to the said first
5 day of January, eighteen hundred and forty-six, and return the
6 same to the Commissioner of the General Land Office at Wash-
7 ington city, under the rules and regulations of the now existing
8 laws, and pay over all moneys up to and on that day, as now re-
9 quired by law; and on said first of January, eighteen hundred and
10 forty-six, they shall deliver over to such person or persons as may
11 be prescribed by the legislature of the State of Alabama, all plats,
12 books, records, or other papers having relation to any of said
13 unsold lands within said State.